

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions or listings of claims previously presented.

Listing of Claims

1. (Amended herein) An insulating composition for an electric power cable which comprises a crosslinkable ethylene polymer, characterized in that the ethylene polymer is a multimodal ethylene copolymer obtained by coordination catalyzed polymerization of ethylene and at least one other alpha-olefin in at least one stage, said multimodal ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.890-0.940 g/cm³, a MFR₂ of 0.1-10 g/10 min, a MWD of 3.5-8, a melting temperature of at most 125°C, and a comonomer distribution as measured by TREF, such that the fraction of copolymer eluted at a temperature higher than 90°C does not exceed 5% by weight, and said multimodal ethylene copolymer including an ethylene copolymer fraction selected from (a) a low molecular weight ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.900-0.950 g/cm³ and a MFR₂ of 25-500 g/10 min, and (b) a high molecular weight ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.870-0.940 g/cm³ and a MFR₂ of 0.01-3 g/10 min.

2. Cancelled herein

3. (Previously Amended) An insulating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimodal ethylene copolymer has a viscosity of 2500-7500 Pa.s at 135°C and a shear rate of 10 s⁻¹, 1000-2200 Pa.s at 135°C and a shear rate of 100 s⁻¹, and 250-400 Pa.s at 135°C and a shear rate of 1000 s⁻¹.

4. (Original) An insulating composition as claimed in claim 3, wherein the multimodal ethylene copolymer has a viscosity of 4000-7000 Pa.s at 135°C and a shear rate of 10 s⁻¹, 1000-2000 Pa.s at 135°C and a shear rate of 100 s⁻¹, and 300-350 Pa.s at 135°C and a shear rate of 1000 s⁻¹.

5. (Previously Amended) An insulating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the comonomer of the copolymer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of propylene, 1-butene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 1-hexene, and 1-octene.

6. (Previously Amended) An insulating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the MWD is 4-5.

7. (Previously Amended) An insulating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimodal ethylene copolymer is a bimodal ethylene copolymer comprising 30-60 % by weight of a low molecular weight ethylene copolymer fraction and 70-40 % by weight of a high molecular weight ethylene copolymer fraction.

8. (Previously Amended) An insulating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multimodal ethylene copolymer includes a low molecular weight ethylene copolymer fraction having a density of 0.900-0.950 g/cm³ and a MFR₂ of 50-100 g/10 min.

9. (Amended herein) An electric power cable comprising a conductor surrounded by an inner semiconducting layer, an insulating layer, and an outer semiconducting layer, characterized in that the insulating layer comprises a crosslinked ethylene copolymer obtained by coordination catalyzed polymerization of ethylene and at least one other alpha-olefin in at least one stage, said multimodal ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.890--0.940 g/cm³, a MFR₂ of 0.1-10 g/10 min, a MWD of 3.5-8, a melting temperature of at most 125°C, and a comonomer distribution as measured by TREF, such that the fraction of copolymer eluted at a temperature higher than 90°C does not exceed 5% by weight, and said multimodal ethylene copolymer including an ethylene copolymer fraction selected from (a) a low molecular weight ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.900-0.950 g/cm³ and a MFR₂ of 25-500 g/10 min, and (b) a high molecular weight ethylene copolymer having a density of 0.870-0.940 g/cm³ and a MFR₂ of 0.01-3 g/10 min.